

REMARKS

Claim 7 is pending in this application and stands rejected under 35 USC 102(a) over Asawanonda. This reference, however, was published in May, 2000. The present application is a divisional application of U.S. 09/203,178, filed November 30, 1998 and claims priority thereto. As well, as noted in applicants preliminary amendment of February 15, 2001, pending claim 7 corresponds to originally filed claim 18 of the parent application.

For these reasons, the rejection is based on prior art that is not available as a reference, as it was not published prior to the date upon which this application may claim priority. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Therefore, claim 7, the only pending claim in this application, is in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 509582000211.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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